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ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP



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March 15, 2007

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairman, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston,

I am respectfully requesting funding for two projects that will provide important benefits for the Houston region as well as the nation in the FY2008 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

My number one priority is \$1,500,000 above the President's proposed allocation from the Agricultural Research Service's Human Nutrition account for Pediatric Obesity Prevention Research at the Children's Nutrition Research Center at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. The additional funding would be used for a new research initiative to investigate pediatric obesity prevention strategies utilizing the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Childhood obesity is currently a serious threat to the health of Americans. This issue is particularly important for the agricultural and food industries because the Dietary Guidelines for Americans promote a balanced diet using a wide variety of readily-available foods appropriate for all Americans. Thus, the intent of the study is to demonstrate that Americans do not need to resort to fad dietary regimens of limited food choice to prevent or treat obesity.

My second priority is \$3.7 million from the CSREES Research and Education account for the Designing Food for Health Program conducted by the Texas A&M Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Centers in Uvalde and Weslaco; Texas A&M University-Kingsville; USDA-ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center at the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston; Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, Baylor College of Dentistry; Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University;

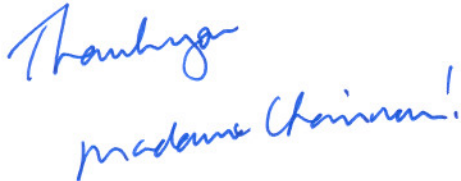
Department of Nutrition and Food Science, Texas A&M University; University of Houston–Victoria; and the New Jersey School of Medicine. Diet-related diseases are a leading cause of deaths in the United States each year, but medical researchers have identified compounds important in the prevention and treatment of these diseases. Additional study is needed to determine the most effective levels of these compounds, validate their mechanisms of action, and investigate their availability, absorption, metabolism, and interactions with other chemicals. The information obtained will be used to design and develop new fruits, vegetables, and other food plants containing optimum levels of disease-preventing compounds.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Culberson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

John Culberson
Member of Congress

A handwritten note in blue ink that reads "Thank you madame Chairman!". The text is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.